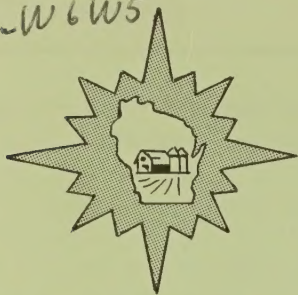


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VOL. V, NO. 2

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

December 1972

Cream of the News

The prices received index for Wisconsin farm products as of mid-November was 13 percent above a year ago due to higher prices for milk, eggs, meat animals, and crops.

Milk production on Wisconsin farms during November was down 7 percent seasonally from October but was 4 percent above November 1971.

A strong demand for cheese pushed wholesale cheese prices to record high levels in November.

Production of pork in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during October was down 11 percent from the previous year but output of beef increased 4 percent.

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in November are expected to average \$5.91 a hundredweight, an increase of 8 cents from October and 42 cents above last year.

The Nation's butter production in October was 5 percent below a year earlier but total output of cheese was up 7 percent.

Wisconsin's corn plant population for 1972 was higher than a year earlier based on a stalk count in sample plots.

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market declined from October to November but were well above last year.

Stocks of meat in cold storage in the Nation at the end of November were 7 percent below a year ago as an 8 percent increase in beef supplies were offset by a 26 percent decline in pork stocks.

All hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1 totaled 1,475,000, a decline of 17 percent from a year earlier.

The 1972 crop season in Wisconsin encountered extremely difficult harvesting conditions because of heavy rains from July through September.

The Nation's cheese stocks in cold storage on November 30 were up 11 percent from last year but stocks of butter were down 20 percent.

MILK PRICE UP AGAIN

Wisconsin farmers are expected to receive an average of \$5.91 a hundredweight for all milk sold in November, a gain of 8 cents from October and the fifth consecutive month of higher milk prices. The November all milk price would be 42 cents above last year.

Milk prices in October averaged \$5.62 a hundredweight, 16 cents more than the previous month and 33 cents above October 1971. Milkfat content averaged 3.86 percent in October, the highest for that month since 1955.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	September 1972		October price per cwt.			Nov. 1972 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1971	1972	72/71 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.74	5.62	5.41	5.83	+ 8	5.91
Minnesota	3.60	5.24	5.09	5.37	+ 6	5.40
Iowa	3.60	5.44	5.22	5.63	+ 8	5.72
New York	3.58	6.95	6.60	7.15	+ 8	7.05
California	3.51	5.55	5.66	5.70	+ 1	5.80
United States	3.63	6.23	6.09	6.42	+ 5	6.48
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.74	5.79	5.62	5.98	+ 6	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.73	5.40	5.12	5.63	+ 10	xxx
Creameries	3.75	5.34	5.10	5.48	+ 7	xxx
Cheese factories	3.73	5.41	5.12	5.65	+ 10	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.73	5.34	5.10	5.53	+ 8	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	October 1971	Sept. 1972	October 1972	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	5.01	5.26	5.29	+ 6
Market milk	5.24	5.42	5.42	+ 3
Manufacturing milk	4.71	5.07	5.12	+ 9
Creameries	4.66	4.98	4.98	+ 7
American cheese plants	4.71	5.06	5.13	+ 9
Varied products plants	4.66	5.01	5.02	+ 8
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone 3/	5.54	5.75	5.76	+ 4

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary. 3/Includes Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and Winnebago County, Illinois.

Producers for the Grade A market received an average of \$5.98 a hundredweight during October, up 19 cents from September and 36 cents more than a year earlier. Manufacturing grade milk, at \$5.63 a hundredweight for October, increased 23 cents from the previous month and was 51 cents greater than October 1971. The price spread between market and manufacturing grade milk was 35 cents in October compared with 50 cents for that month last year.

NOVEMBER MILK PRODUCTION UP 4 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Milk production in Wisconsin during November was 4 percent above a year earlier. Dairy herds in the State produced 1,393 million pounds of milk during November, continuing the record monthly production that began in June. November's output was down seasonally 7 percent from October, the same decline as a year ago. Milk production per cow averaged 740 pounds in November, a gain of 20 pounds from the previous year. From January through November 1972, milk production in Wisconsin has averaged 4 percent higher than in 1971. This rise in milk production has been due to an increase in the number of milk cows and output per cow.

Milk Production

Selected States	November 1971	November 1972	Jan.-Nov. 1972	Change from last year	
				Nov.	Jan.-Nov.
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,342	1,393	18,131	+ 4	+ 4
Minnesota	655	654	8,913	n. c.	+ 1
Iowa	327	326	4,162	n. c.	- 1
New York	777	731	9,383	- 6	- 2
Pennsylvania . .	554	525	6,472	- 5	- 1
California	773	831	9,510	+ 8	+ 7
Other states . . .	4,522	4,544	54,424	n. c.	+ 1
United States . .	8,950	9,004	110,995	+ 1	+ 2

The Nation's milk production during November totaled slightly over 9 billion pounds, up almost 1 percent from a year ago. Production was 5 percent less than October, about the same seasonal decline as last year. Output per cow averaged 742 pounds in November, 2 percent more than the previous year. The Nation's milk production from January through November 1972 was nearly 2 percent more than in that period of 1971. Of the major producing states, output

of milk has been running above last year in Wisconsin, California, and Minnesota but below in New York and Pennsylvania.

BUTTER STOCKS DOWN A FIFTH

Stocks of butter in cold storage in the Nation on November 30 were a fifth lower than a year ago. There were 123½ million pounds of butter in cold storage at the end of November compared with 155 million pounds last year. The Government held 111 million pounds of butter on November 30, a decline of 6 percent from the previous year.

Cold storage stocks of cheese totaled nearly 353 million pounds at the end of November, up 11 percent from last year. American cheese stocks were 16 percent greater than on November 30, 1971. Supplies of Swiss cheese in cold storage at the end of November were 2 percent above a year earlier but stocks of all other cheese were down 6 percent. The Government held only 205,000 pounds of American cheese in cold storage on November 30 compared with 3½ million pounds on that date a year ago.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	Total stocks			
	Nov. 30, 1970	Nov. 30, 1971	Nov. 30, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	134,262	155,032	123,538	- 20
Cheese, American	254,817	250,876	290,286	+ 16
Cheese, Swiss	11,736	8,084	8,269	+ 2
Cheese, all other	60,203	57,757	54,184	- 6
Cheese, total	326,756	316,717	352,739	+ 11
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	1,493	6,202	5,377	- 13
Cheese, American	142,556	143,083	184,802	+ 29
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	113,708	118,784	111,121	- 6
Cheese, American	3,587	3,494	205	- 94

*Included in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products
United States

Commodity	October 31, 1970	October 31, 1971	October 31, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	6,634	6,423	4,823	- 25
Dried skim milk	120,622	102,333	48,888	- 52
Dried buttermilk	8,399	2,241	3,059	+ 37
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	179,957	151,505	138,776	- 8

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

BUTTER PRODUCTION DOWN 5 PERCENT

The Nation's creameries produced 76 million pounds of butter in October, a decline of 5 percent from a year ago. Production decreases shown by states were Iowa 14 percent, Minnesota 8 percent, Wisconsin 2 percent, and all other states 3 percent. This was the third straight month that the Nation's

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butter output was under last year.

Production of all cheese in the Nation during October was up 7 percent from the previous year. Output of Swiss cheese gained 14 percent and Italian cheese production was 10 percent higher than October 1971. Output of limburger and Brick and Muenster declined from October last year but production of all other varieties showed little change.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	Oct. 1971	Oct. 1972	Jan.-Oct. 1972	Change from last year	
				October	Jan.-Oct.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	13,721	13,400	175,100	- 2	+ 1
Minnesota	18,028	16,660	226,960	- 8	- 7
Iowa	6,296	5,400	76,220	- 14	- 3
Other states	41,825	40,461	477,169	- 3	n. c.
United States	79,870	75,921	955,449	- 5	- 2
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	48,546	55,000	651,300	+ 13	+ 13
Minnesota	12,262	14,200	158,595	+ 16	+ 16
Missouri	6,624	6,000	81,930	- 9	+ 5
Other states	42,316	42,873	558,047	+ 1	+ 11
United States	109,748	118,073	1,449,872	+ 8	+ 12
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	12,908	14,676	147,242	+ 14	+ 15
Brick and Muenster . .	5,603	5,346	57,340	- 5	+ 12
Limburger	229	216	2,130	- 6	+ 2
Italian	37,507	41,201	408,984	+ 10	+ 10
All other	17,777	17,755	157,225	n. c.	+ 4
Total	74,024	79,194	772,921	+ 7	+ 10
ALL CHEESE					
United States	183,772	197,267	2,222,793	+ 7	+ 11
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	59,971	64,549	666,185	+ 8	+ 6
Creamed 2/	80,383	85,016	885,752	+ 6	+ 4
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,565	1,500	16,655	- 4	- 2
Illinois	3,377	3,530	36,680	+ 5	+ 2
Iowa	540	600	6,740	+ 11	+ 8
Michigan	2,742	3,010	32,845	+ 10	+ 7
Minnesota	2,030	2,375	25,765	+ 17	+ 8
Other states	48,880	50,654	560,627	+ 4	+ 3
United States	59,134	61,669	679,312	+ 4	+ 3

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

American cheese production in the Nation for October was 8 percent greater than a year earlier. Wisconsin, with 55 million pounds of American cheese made in October, was up 13 percent from the previous year. Minnesota had a gain of 16 percent but Missouri was down 9 percent.

Production of cottage cheese curd in the Nation during October was 8 percent above last year and creamed cottage cheese showed a gain of 6 percent. The Nation's ice cream production for October was 4 percent more than a year earlier.

BUTTER PRODUCTION CONTINUES LOWER

Weekly estimates of butter production in the Nation during November indicate a continuation of lower butter output for the fourth consecutive month. The Nation's butter

production for November could be 8 percent below last year. Churnings in October were down 5 percent and output for the first 10 months of 1972 showed a 2 percent decline. Wisconsin's butter production in November may show a small decrease but from January through October was up 1 percent from that period in 1971.

Production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation during November will remain above a year ago but the rate of increase will not be as large. Weekly estimates indicate a 3 percent gain in the Nation's output of American cheese for November compared with 8 percent in October and 12 percent from January through October. Wisconsin's production of American cheese in November will be up from the previous year but will not match the 13 percent increase shown from January through October.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1972	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1972	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
October	75,921	- 5	- 2	118,073	+ 8	+ 13
Jan.-Oct. . . .	955,449	- 2	+ 1	1,449,872	+ 12	+ 13
Weeks ending						
Nov. 9	17,100	- 7	+ 2	24,850	+ 3	+ 8
Nov. 16	16,700	- 6	- 1	24,250	+ 1	+ 4
Nov. 23	14,850	- 11	+ 6	23,700	+ 2	+ 6
Nov. 30	18,700	- 10	- 11	26,500	+ 6	+ 13
Total	67,350	- 8	xxx	99,300	+ 3	xxx

CHEESE MARKET CONTINUES STRONG

A strong demand for cheese has pushed wholesale cheese prices to a record high level. Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged 63 cents a pound at Wisconsin primary markets in November, an increase of almost 2 cents from October and nearly 7 cents above November 1971. Swiss cheese, Wisconsin State Brand, averaged 75.86 cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during November, an increase of over 1½ cents from the previous month and more than 9 cents above last year.

While the cheese market continued to rise, the wholesale butter price declined slightly. Butter, 92-score at New York, averaged 70.31 cents a pound in November, down about ½ cent from October but 1½ cents higher than a year earlier.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	November 1971	October 1972	November 1972 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . . .	68.79¢	70.84¢	70.31¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/. . .	56.09¢	61.14¢	63.01¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/.	66.50¢	74.25¢	75.86¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$7.70-9.08	\$8.10-9.10	\$ - - - -
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound.	31.61¢	33.70¢	34.99¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

1972 CROP SUMMARY

The 1972 crop season will be remembered for its extremely difficult harvesting conditions because of heavy rains from July through September. Fields became saturated and often unable to support harvesting equipment. The rainfall was good for crop growth but feed quality suffered when crops were not harvested at the best time. Based on estimates as of October 1, the crop production index for 1972 was 123 percent of the 1957-59 average compared with 131 percent in 1971.

Field work in the spring was off to the slowest start since 1965. Very little oats was sown before May 1 as frost and snow were slow to leave the ground. Activity picked up considerably when the warm weather came in May. Many farmers reported that they had never put crops in at such a rapid pace once they were able to get on the fields.

Dry weather in May and June slowed the initial development of crops. Heavy rains and a few warm days in July provided excellent growing conditions for crops. However, the rains continued to fall during August and September, raising havoc with the crop harvest. The precipitation in October and November returned to more normal levels but the wet fields and high moisture content slowed the harvesting of corn and soybeans and delayed fall plowing.

First crop hay yields were reduced by severe winterkill, a late spring, and insufficient moisture. Second crop hay yields

were good but a substantial amount spoiled when the rains prevented getting hay into storage. Third crop had good growth where farmers were able to remove the second crop. Hay supplies could be short on some farms and quality is not the best except for the first crop. Production of all hay for 1972 is estimated at less than the 11 million tons produced in 1971.

Small grains did not have a good year in 1972. Oats experienced one of its worst years ever as planting was late, dry weather reduced growth and caused atrazine residue problems, and wet weather interfered with harvesting to the extent that a considerable acreage had to be abandoned. Production of oats in 1972 was 22 percent below a year earlier and the lowest since 1939. The harvested acreage of oats for grain was the least since 1884 and the yield was the poorest since 1966. Production declines from 1971 for other small grains were barley 36 percent, spring wheat 33 percent, and winter wheat and rye 31 percent. Grain and straw supplies are very short on many farms.

The 1972 grain corn crop had good yields but production is expected to be well below the record 1971 crop because of a reduction in acreage. Farmers were fortunate that the heavy snows and rain in November passed south of Wisconsin as this kept fields from becoming even wetter and allowed the ground to freeze enough to support harvesting equipment. Harvesting continued in early December despite snow and very cold temperatures. About 90 percent of the corn for grain was harvested by December 11th. Silage yields

Crop Summary of Wisconsin for December 1, 1972

Crop	Acreage			Yield per acre			Unit	Production		
	1970	1971	1972 (prelimi- nary)	1970	1971	1972 (prelimi- nary)		1970	1971	1972 (prelimi- nary)
	Thousands							Thousands		
FIELD CROPS										
Corn for grain	1,794	2,099	1,937	80.0	97.0	96.0	Bu.	143,520	203,603	185,952
Oats	1,687	1,535	1,350	63.0	62.0	55.0	Bu.	106,281	95,170	74,250
Barley	26	28	22	50.0	55.0	45.0	Bu.	1,300	1,540	990
Rye	11	12	10	23.0	24.0	20.0	Bu.	253	288	200
Wheat (all)	31	35	29	35.8	37.5	31.1	Bu.	1,110	1,314	901
Winter	20	22	20	39.0	42.0	32.0	Bu.	780	924	640
Spring	11	13	9	30.0	30.0	29.0	Bu.	330	390	261
Soybeans for beans	153	128	147	21.0	22.0	21.0	Bu.	3,213	2,816	3,087
Potatoes (all)	52.0	51.5	45.5	251	256	243	Cwt.	13,028	13,183	11,075
Late summer	15.5	15.5	15.0	240	235	230	Cwt.	3,720	3,643	3,450
Fall	36.5	36.0	30.5	255	265	250	Cwt.	9,308	9,540	7,625
Tobacco (all)	8.8	10.6	11.5	2,095	2,125	2,070	Lb.	18,436	22,525	23,810
Type 54	4.4	5.3	5.4	2,135	2,270	2,150	Lb.	9,394	12,031	11,610
Type 55	4.4	5.3	6.1	2,055	1,980	2,000	Lb.	9,042	10,494	12,200
HAY AND FORAGE										
Hay (all)	4,016	4,086	4,083	2.64	2.68	2.61	Ton	10,601	10,950	10,661
Alfalfa and mixtures	2,958	3,017	2,896	2.80	2.85	2.80	Ton	8,282	8,598	8,109
All other	1,058	1,069	1,187	2.19	2.20	2.15	Ton	2,319	2,352	2,552
VEGETABLE CROPS										
Carrots 1/	2.9	2.8	2.9	425	425	350	Cwt.	1,233	1,190	1,015
Cabbage 1/	6.4	5.8	5.7	335	345	320	Cwt.	2,144	2,001	1,824
Lettuce	1.6	1.6	1.3	210	220	150	Cwt.	336	352	195
Mint for oil	11.1	8.5	7.7	55	48	33	Cwt.	611	407	256
Onions, commercial 1/	1.7	1.6	1.6	260	235	250	Cwt.	442	376	400
For processing:										
Green lima beans	6.6	5.3	6.1	.97	1.25	.90	Ton 2/	6.4	6.7	5.5
Peas	118.6	125.1	130.0	1.16	1.17	1.20	Ton 2/	137.6	146.4	156.0
Snap beans	44.1	50.1	52.0	2.26	2.59	2.20	Ton	99.7	129.8	114.4
Sweet corn	117.6	117.9	129.0	3.82	4.57	4.50	Ton	449.3	538.8	580.5
Cucumber for pickles	11.5	8.7	9.0	4.26	5.04	4.77	Ton	49.0	41.4	43.0
Beets for canning	5.8	5.8	5.9	10.43	11.66	12.20	Ton	60.5	67.7	72.0
FRUITS, ETC.										
Apples, commercial	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lb.	58,000	65,000	72,000
Tart cherries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Ton	3.5	8.4	5.0
Cranberries	—	—	—	—	—	—	Bbl.	702	742	800
Strawberries 1/	1.5	1.7	1.5	28	28	23	Cwt.	42	48	35

1/Includes portion processed. 2/Shelled.

for 1972 were comparable to 1971 but quality was much poorer as the plants became too dry from blight and frost before farmers could get choppers into the muddy fields.

Soybeans yielded well in 1972 but were high in moisture. About 15 percent of the soybeans were still in the fields when a heavy snowstorm moved into Wisconsin on December 12th. Tobacco had a large growth but the heavy rains and poor curing weather hurt quality. Production of all tobacco in 1972 was estimated at almost 24 million pounds, the largest crop since 1950. Although yield for all tobacco was down from 1971 the acreage harvested was the most since 1962.

Potato and vegetable growers had a tough year harvesting their crops because of the excessive rain. Frost damage and wet fields caused a sizable acreage to be abandoned. Fruit production for 1972 was excellent for apples and cranberries but winter damage reduced the strawberry and cherry crops. The apple crop, estimated at 72 million pounds, was the largest since 1961 while the cranberry crop was expected to be a record 800,000 barrels.

Weather Summary, November, 1972

Station	Temperature				Precipitation		
	Low	High	Mean	Normal	For month	Normal	Accumulative departure since Jan. 1
Amery	2	52	31	31	1.32	1.50	+ 2.71
Superior	8	53	31	31	1.30	1.79	+ 7.24
Spooner	8	52	31	30	1.59	1.58	- .19
Park Falls	10	49	29	29	2.83	2.02	+ 5.78
Rhineland	4	49	29	30	2.76	1.98	+ 2.47
Medford	5	50	30	30	1.90	2.13	+ 4.71
Marinette	13	53	37	36	1.31	2.42	+ 1.11
Antigo	8	53	31	32	1.57	1.99	+ 4.02
River Falls	14	55	33	32	1.59	1.61	- .37
LaCrosse	18	57	34	34	1.45	1.94	+ 3.97
Hatfield Dam	8	58	33	33	2.28	1.87	+ 5.13
Marshfield	9	52	32	32	1.73	2.03	+ 4.79
Hancock	4	54	33	33	.97	2.21	+ .96
Green Bay	13	57	35	34	1.15	1.91	+ .13
Oshkosh	13	54	35	35	1.27	2.13	+ 3.91
Sheboygan	18	56	37	37	1.22	2.22	+ 2.96
Manitowoc	15	57	36	37	1.02	2.30	+ 3.34
Lancaster	14	54	33	36	1.65	2.12	+ 7.17
Darlington	5	55	33	36	1.47	2.21	+ 4.21
Hillsboro	14	56	34	34	.78	2.26	+ 7.38
Portage	10	54	35	37	.81	2.18	+ 4.67
Madison	15	54	35	35	.86	2.14	+ .20
Beloit	17	54	37	39	1.30	2.42	+ 16.32
Lake Geneva	18	55	36	37	1.47	2.16	+ 16.60
Milwaukee (airport) ..	15	55	36	36	1.34	2.18	+ 5.69
Average for 25 stations	11	54	33	34	1.48	2.05	+ 4.60

WISCONSIN'S CORN PLANT POPULATION HIGHER

Corn plant population in Wisconsin for 1972 increased from a year earlier and was the highest since this type of data was collected. Information is obtained monthly from August through November on corn development and yields. Counts and measurements are made by trained enumerators during visits to random plots in a scientific sampling of fields. Based on a stalk count in approximately 150 sample plots, Wisconsin's corn plant population in 1972 was 19,400 plants per acre compared with 18,100 for 1971. Other states in the Corn Belt region also showed higher plant populations in 1972 except for Kansas. Wisconsin's corn plant population in 1972 was the highest of any of the Corn Belt States.

Plant Population per Acre of Corn for Grain 1/

States	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Ohio	17,500	17,700	18,200	16,900	18,200
Indiana	16,700	17,000	17,900	17,000	18,300
Illinois	17,900	18,600	18,100	18,000	19,100
Michigan	16,100	16,800	18,400	16,500	18,500
Wisconsin	18,200	17,600	18,800	18,100	19,400
Minnesota	17,200	18,200	18,400	18,600	19,000
Iowa	17,200	17,400	18,000	18,100	19,200
Missouri	14,400	15,000	14,600	14,800	15,300
South Dakota	11,300	12,000	12,200	11,900	12,800
Nebraska	15,900	15,600	16,400	16,000	16,900
Kansas	16,000	15,800	15,900	17,400	17,000

1/Population based on stalk count in sample plots selected for objective yield determinations.

Measurements of row spacing of corn for grain in Wisconsin in 1972 showed a slight narrowing in the average row width. The State's average row width for 1972 was 37.3 inches compared with 37.4 inches in the two previous years. Iowa also had an average row width of 37.3 inches for 1972 but other neighboring states had narrower spacings between corn rows. Except for Michigan, the most popular row width in Wisconsin and other nearby states was between 36.6 and 38.5 inches. However, Wisconsin also had almost the same percentage of its samples with a measurement of 38.6 to 40.5 inches.

Measured Row Spacing of Corn for Grain 1/

State and year	Row width groups (inches)					Average width
	34.5 & less	34.6 – 36.5	36.6 – 38.5	38.6 – 40.5	40.6 & greater	
	Percent of samples					Inches
Wisconsin						
1968	8.5	8.5	32.2	33.0	17.8	38.1
1969	9.1	14.4	29.6	33.3	13.6	37.9
1970	13.1	11.7	35.2	29.7	10.3	37.4
1971	13.5	11.7	38.0	27.6	9.2	37.4
1972	18.1	9.7	31.3	31.2	9.7	37.3
Other States 2/						
Indiana	20.4	15.8	46.0	15.1	2.7	36.2
Illinois	22.8	8.0	45.2	21.8	2.2	36.3
Iowa	13.5	8.2	39.2	34.8	4.3	37.3
Michigan	35.6	7.8	23.3	28.9	4.4	35.7
Minnesota	23.1	12.2	38.1	21.8	4.8	36.3

1/Spacings based on row measurements in sample plots selected for objective yield determinations. 2/Data for 1972.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES

Higher prices for milk, eggs, and some crops offset lower livestock prices to result in a 2 point gain in the prices received index for Wisconsin farm products from October to November. At 391 percent of the 1910-14 base, the prices received index for mid-November was 45 points (13 percent) above a year earlier.

Steers and heifers averaged \$32.20 a hundredweight for November, down 50 cents from the previous month but \$3.20 above last year. Slaughter cows, at \$25.00 a hundredweight in November, were \$1.00 below mid-October but \$4.20 more than November 1971.

The hog price weakened during the period ending November 15. Hogs averaged \$26.60 a hundredweight for November, a decline of 80 cents from October and the lowest price since June. However, hogs at mid-November were still \$7.60 higher than a year ago.

Calves dropped \$2.00 a hundredweight from October to November. The November calf price of \$47.50 a hundredweight was the lowest since May but was \$6.50 above the previous year.

Sheep prices were unchanged from October to November but lambs declined slightly. The mid-November sheep price of \$6.00 a hundredweight was 70 cents more than a year earlier. Lambs at \$26.30 in November, were down 20 cents from the previous month but \$2.30 above November 1971. Wool averaged 45 cents a pound as of November 15, the highest since December 1966. Wool prices increased 2 cents from October and were 24 cents greater than November last year.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	November 1970	November 1971	October 1972	November 1972
Dollars					
Milk cows.....	Head	380.00	415.00	450.00	450.00
Steers and heifers..	Cwt.	25.00	29.00	32.70	32.20
Cows.....	Cwt.	18.30	20.80	26.00	25.00
Calves.....	Cwt.	35.60	41.00	49.50	47.50
Hogs.....	Cwt.	15.50	19.00	27.40	26.60
Sheep.....	Cwt.	5.30	5.30	6.00	6.00
Lambs.....	Cwt.	23.50	24.00	26.50	26.30
Wool.....	Lb.	.32	.21	.43	.45
Chickens 1/.....	Lb.	.080	.085	.100	.095
Turkeys.....	Lb.	.230	.220	.220	.240
Eggs.....	Doz.	.330	.290	.290	.330
Corn.....	Bu.	1.32	1.04	1.17	1.16
Oats.....	Bu.	.73	.69	.75	.78
Soybeans.....	Bu.	2.75	2.83	3.05	3.30
Alfalfa hay, baled..	Ton	20.50	21.50	30.00	31.00

1/Excludes broilers.

Turkey prices at 24 cents a pound liveweight in November were up 2 cents from both a month and a year earlier. This was the best turkey price since June 1970. Eggs rose 4 cents a dozen from October to November. At 33 cents for mid-November, eggs were also 4 cents more than last year.

Corn prices were down slightly in the period ending November 15, but soybeans, oats, and baled alfalfa hay increased in price. Corn averaged \$1.16 a bushel for November, 1 cent below the previous month but 12 cents above November 1971. Oats, at 78 cents a bushel for mid-November, reached its highest level since February 1953. Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$31.00 a ton on November 15, the highest since March 1949. Oats was 9 cents a bushel more than a year ago while alfalfa hay was up almost \$10.00 a ton. The November soybean price of \$3.30 a bushel was 25 cents above October and 47 cents greater than November 1971.

PORK PRODUCTION UNDER LAST YEAR

Production of pork in Wisconsin's commercial slaughtering plants during October was 11 percent below a year ago. There were 287,000 hogs butchered in October, a decline of 23,000 from last year. The average liveweight of hogs slaughtered in October was 228 pounds, 10 pounds lighter than the previous year and the lowest for October since 1957.

A total of 98,500 cattle were killed in Wisconsin slaughtering plants during October, an increase of 2,500 from October 1971. The average liveweight of cattle was 1,109 pounds for October, a gain of 15 pounds from a year earlier. With both

the number slaughtered and the average liveweight above last year, beef production in October was up 4 percent from a year ago.

Calf slaughter during October amounted to 17,200, a decline of 9,800 from the previous year. The average liveweight of calves butchered in October was 185 pounds, 37 pounds above a year earlier and a record high for October. A total of 600 sheep and lambs were slaughtered in October compared with 400 last year.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	October		Change from last year	October	
	1971	1972		1971	1972
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	96.0	98.5	+ 3	105.0	109.2
United States 1/ . . .	3,009.0	3,192.0	+ 6	3,065.0	3,330.7
Calves					
Wisconsin	27.0	17.2	— 36	4.0	3.2
United States 1/ . . .	307.2	259.1	— 16	76.9	66.4
Hogs					
Wisconsin	310.0	287.0	— 7	73.8	65.4
United States 1/ . . .	7,780.2	7,491.4	— 4	1,852.5	1,789.5
Sheep and lambs.					
Wisconsin4	.6	+ 50	.038	.059
United States 1/ . . .	959.2	966.2	+ 1	98.3	101.7

1/Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

MEAT STOCKS BELOW A YEAR AGO

Stocks of meat in the Nation's cold storage facilities on November 30 were 7 percent below a year ago. Although supplies of beef in cold storage were up 8 percent, pork stocks were 26 percent less than last year.

Total beef in cold storage at the end of November amounted to 354 million pounds, an increase of 26 million pounds from the previous month and 27½ million pounds more than November 30, 1971.

Pork stocks at the end of November totaled 241½ million pounds, a gain of 33 million pounds from a month earlier but almost 84 million pounds below last year. Frozen pork bellies increased by 60 percent during November but at the end of the month were 48 percent lower than a year ago.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Nov. 30, 1970	Nov. 30, 1971	Oct. 31, 1972	Nov. 30, 1972	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen.....	304,317	318,551	317,143	343,492	+ 8
In cure and cured.....	13,549	8,332	11,422	10,879	+ 31
Total.....	317,866	326,883	328,565	354,371	+ 8
Pork:					
Frozen.....	276,369	301,417	192,166	221,566	- 26
In cooler.....	27,132	23,920	16,297	19,977	- 16
Total.....	303,501	325,337	208,463	241,543	- 26
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen.....	8,494	8,127	10,950	12,496	+ 54
Lamb and mutton, frozen..	19,653	18,626	18,916	17,787	- 5
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams.....	46,533	59,921	61,739	60,187	n. c.
Other meats.....	18,563	17,098	15,703	18,019	+ 5
Total, all meats.....	714,610	755,992	644,336	704,403	- 7

DECEMBER 1 HOG INVENTORY LOWER

All hogs and pigs on Wisconsin farms December 1, 1972 totaled 1,475,000, a decline of 17 percent from a year earlier. Hogs being kept for breeding numbered 251,000 on December 1, down 9 percent from the previous year. The 1,224,000 hogs being raised primarily for slaughter were 19 percent fewer than on December 1, 1971.

A total of 100,000 sows farrowed on Wisconsin farms during September through November compared with 122,000 for these months in 1971. The September-November pig crop of 755,000 was 19 percent below a year earlier. Litter rates for the third quarter of 1972 averaged 7.55 pigs, down 2 percent from the average of 7.67 pigs per litter in September-November 1971.

Wisconsin farmers plan to farrow 75,000 sows during December 1972 through February 1973. This would be an increase of 4 percent from a year earlier. Farrowings from March through May 1973 are expected to total 120,000 sows, 2 percent under that period in 1972.

The 10 Corn Belt States, including Wisconsin had 46.2 million hogs and pigs on farms December 1, about the same as a year ago. These 10 States accounted for three-fourths of the Nation's total hog and pig inventory of 61.5 million on December 1, 1972. There were 6.7 million hogs being kept for breeding purposes in the 10 Corn Belt States, a gain of 9 percent from December 1 last year. Market hogs at 39.5 million were 2 percent below a year ago.

All Hogs and Pigs on Farms, Breeding and Market
December 1, 1971 and 1972, 10 States

State	For breeding			Market			Total hogs and pigs		
	1971	1972	Change from last year	1971	1972	Change from last year	1971	1972	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Ohio.....	313	324	+ 4	2,298	2,078	- 10	2,611	2,402	- 8
Indiana.....	577	644	+ 12	4,443	4,306	- 3	5,020	4,950	- 1
Illinois.....	924	1,030	+ 11	5,676	6,070	+ 7	6,600	7,100	+ 8
Wisconsin.....	275	251	- 9	1,502	1,224	- 19	1,777	1,475	- 17
Minnesota.....	514	584	+ 14	3,030	3,066	+ 1	3,544	3,650	+ 3
Iowa.....	1,975	2,096	+ 6	12,460	12,878	- 3	14,853	14,556	- 2
Missouri.....	652	715	+ 10	4,007	3,885	- 3	4,659	4,600	- 1
S. Dakota.....	262	279	+ 6	1,606	1,581	- 2	1,868	1,860	n. c.
Nebraska.....	432	498	+ 15	2,890	2,957	+ 2	3,322	3,455	+ 4
Kansas.....	273	308	+ 13	1,827	1,892	+ 4	2,100	2,200	+ 5
Total 10 states..	6,197	6,729	+ 9	40,157	39,519	- 2	46,354	46,248	n. c.

Sows Farrowing, Pigs per Litter and Pig Crop
September through November, 1971 and 1972, 10 States

State	Sows farrowing			Pigs per litter		Pig crop 1/		
	1971	1972	Change from last year	1971	1972	1971	1972	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	Head		1,000 head		Percent
Ohio.....	135	130	- 4	7.50	7.20	1,013	936	- 8
Indiana.....	210	231	+ 10	7.50	7.26	1,575	1,677	+ 6
Illinois.....	375	410	+ 9	6.90	7.00	2,588	2,870	+ 11
Wisconsin.....	122	100	- 18	7.67	7.55	936	755	- 19
Minnesota.....	172	195	+ 13	7.35	7.25	1,264	1,414	+ 12
Iowa.....	714	730	+ 2	7.25	6.95	5,177	5,074	- 2
Missouri.....	281	270	- 4	7.25	7.00	2,037	1,890	- 7
S. Dakota.....	98	105	+ 7	7.10	7.00	696	735	+ 6
Nebraska.....	194	198	+ 2	7.00	7.20	1,358	1,426	+ 5
Kansas.....	119	124	+ 4	7.65	7.50	910	930	+ 2
Total 10 states..	2,420	2,493	+ 3	7.25	7.10	17,554	17,707	+ 1

1/Number of pigs born September through November that were still on hand December 1 or had been sold.

Sows to Farrow, December through May, 10 States

State	December 1/ through February			March through May		
	1972	1973 2/	Change from last year	1972	1973 2/	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Percent	1,000 head		Percent
Ohio.....	105	110	+ 5	139	140	+ 1
Indiana.....	230	244	+ 6	256	256	n. c.
Illinois.....	310	350	+ 13	495	520	+ 5
Wisconsin.....	72	75	+ 4	122	120	- 2
Minnesota.....	146	175	+ 20	236	276	+ 17
Iowa.....	462	500	+ 8	1,020	1,120	+ 10
Missouri.....	210	220	+ 5	285	300	+ 5
S. Dakota.....	65	75	+ 15	165	174	+ 5
Nebraska.....	130	155	+ 19	240	250	+ 4
Kansas.....	97	105	+ 8	125	133	+ 6
Total 10 states..	1,827	2,009	+ 10	3,083	3,289	+ 7

1/December of preceding year. 2/Number indicated by breeding intentions reports.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES DECLINE

Prices of good grade fed steers and utility cows at the St. Paul market declined from October to November. Good grade feeder steer prices at Kansas City in November were also below the previous month.

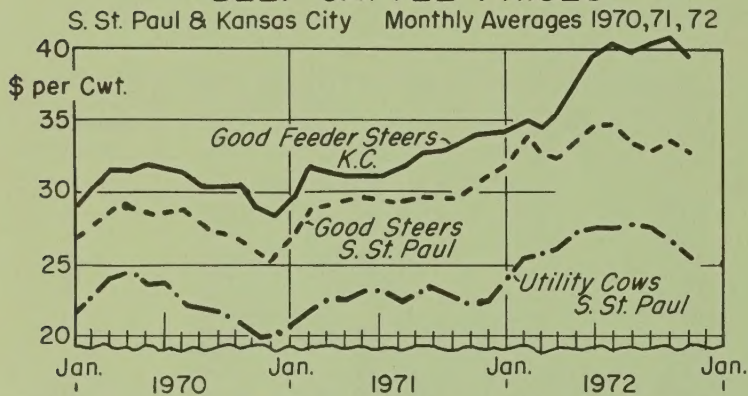
Good grade steers at St. Paul weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$32.65 a hundredweight for November, down 81 cents from October but \$2.37 higher than last year. Utility cows, at \$25.66 a hundredweight in November, were \$1.00 under a month earlier but \$3.67 above November 1971.

Good grade feeder steers at Kansas City weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$39.75 a hundredweight in November, a decline of \$1.24 from October but \$5.87 more than a year ago.

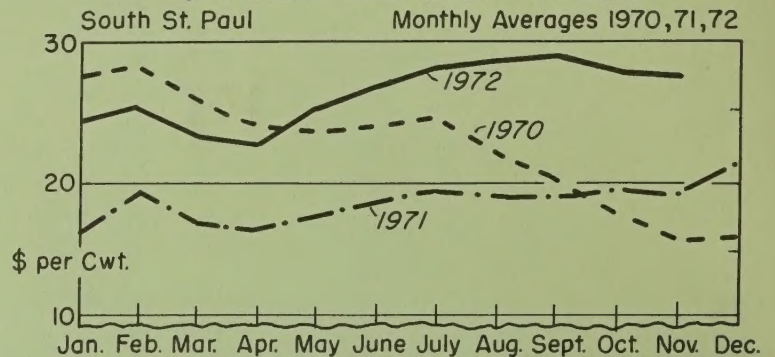
HOG MARKET LOWER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul Market declined from October to November. Barrows and gilts averaged \$27.71 a hundredweight for November, down 33 cents from October and the first time since June that the price averaged below \$28.00 a hundredweight. However, the average price of barrows and gilts in November was \$8.53 higher than a year ago.

BEEF CATTLE PRICES

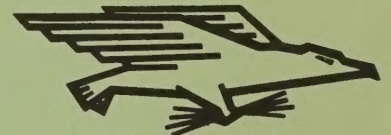


BARROW and GILT PRICES



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